

'313 disclosed an air chamber, or chambers or sub-chambers receiving air. '624 discloses a seat cushion or "envelope 22 which may be constructed by two layers of flexible 24 and 26, which envelope 22 is adapted to contain fluid filling material 28. Pad 20 and envelope 22 may be manufactured by heat-sealing flexible films 24 and 26 at the edges with heat seal 27 to contain the fluid 28 material therein, as shown in FIG.6." (Column 5, Lines 22-28)

The fluid 28 material is variously identified as a "flowable filling material" (e.g., Column 9, Line 16) and a "viscous liquid" (e.g., Column 6, Line 50).

The examiner contends that it would be obvious to modify '313 "by making the distance from an edge of the air chamber sensor to an end of the channel wall [does] not exceed one half of the distance between the channel walls as taught by Jay in order to control the volume of filling material." '624 does not disclose or suggest in any way that the "air" of '313 could be substituted with the fluid 28 material of '624. '313 does not disclose or suggest that the fluid 28 material could be substituted for the air thereof.

There is nothing in '313 and '624, taken either individually or in combination which would render obvious to one skilled in the art the substitution of a flowable fluid as taught by '624 (e.g., Column 6, Lines 59 through Column 7, Line 1).

Accordingly, claims 24-27 are seen to be allowable over the art.

CLAIM REJECTION – 35 USC § 103(a)
Graebe, Jr. '313 in view of Johnson (US 5450638)('638)

The rejection of claims 28-30, 32 and 33 as obvious over '313 in view of '638 is respectfully traversed. Claims 28-30, 32 and 33 have not been amended in view of the following remarks.

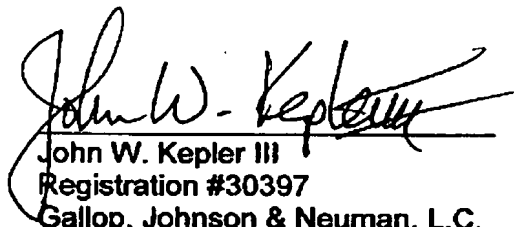
'313 discloses an air chamber, or chambers, or sub-chambers receiving air. '638 discloses an auto-inflating cushion with an erecting mechanism 4 or 4a or 4b.

The examiner contends that it would be obvious to modify '313 to include "support strips" as taught by '638. '638 does not teach or suggest the use of "support strips," rather '638 uses an "erecting mechanism." The erecting mechanism is not located in the longitudinal portion 1, rather it is located at the end of and external to the closed airtight hollow chamber.

'638 does not teach or suggest in any way locating the erecting mechanism inside the '313 structure. There is nothing in '313 and '638, taken either individually or in combination which would render obvious to one skilled in the art, locating the external erecting mechanism of '638 inside the chamber of '313.

Accordingly, claims 28-30, 32 and 33 are seen to be allowable over the art.

Respectfully submitted,



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